CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (original) A method for preparing a protective layer for an aluminum-containing alloy of the Fe-Al, Fe-Cr-Al, Ni-Al or Ni-Cr-Al type using the following steps:

forming on the surface of the alloy an oxide layer exhibiting non-aluminum-containing oxides;

heating the alloy to temperatures to above 800°C such that the non-aluminum-containing oxides on the surface of the alloy inhibit the formation of metastable aluminum oxides and substantially only α-Al_2O_3 oxides form.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein a non-aluminum-containing oxide layer at a maximum thickness of 5000 nm, especially only 1000 nm, and especially advantageously only 100 nm, is formed.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein at least one of the oxides among the group (Ni oxide, Fe oxide, Cr oxide or Ti oxide) is deposited on the aluminum-containing alloy so as to form a non-aluminum-containing oxide layer.

4. (original) The method according to the previous claim 3 wherein the deposition is realized by vaporization and condensing or cathode sputtering.

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein for the formation of a non-aluminum-containing oxide layer, at least one metal among the group (Ni, Fe, Cr or Ti) is deposited on the aluminum-containing alloy, so that an oxide layer corresponding to the metal forms therefrom in an oxygen atmosphere.

6. (original) The method according to the previous claim 5 wherein deposition through vaporization and condensing, cathode sputtering or galvanic deposition is realized.

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein for the formation of a non-aluminum-containing oxide layer an aluminum-containing alloy is introduced into a chloride- and/or fluorite-containing medium, whereby a corresponding oxide or hydroxide layer forms at the surface of the aluminum-containing alloy from an alloy metal that is not aluminum.

8. (original) The method according to claim 7 wherein an aluminum-containing alloy is introduced into the medium over a period of one minute to five hours.

9. (original) The method according to claim 7 wherein the aluminum-containing component is introduced into the medium at temperatures between 30 and 100 °C.

10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein for the formation of a non-aluminum-containing oxide layer, the aluminum-containing alloy is heated to a temperature below 800°C, especially a temperature in the 500 to 800°C range, whereby a corresponding oxide layer forms at the surface of the aluminum-containing alloy from an alloy metal that is not aluminum.